

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 and 21-30 were pending in this application.

Claims 1, 3-5, 21, and 24-26 have been rejected.

Claims 2, 6-10, 22, 23, and 27-30 have been objected to.

Claims 1, 2, 21, 23, and 27 have been amended as shown above.

Claim 22 has been cancelled.

Claims 1-10, 21, and 23-30 are now pending in this application.

Reconsideration and full allowance of Claims 1-10, 21, and 23-30 are respectfully requested.

**I. ALLOWABLE CLAIMS**

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 2, 6-10, 22, 23, and 27-30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to incorporate the elements of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

First, the Applicant respectfully notes that Claim 6 has already been amended into independent form. As a result, Claims 6-10 do not depend from a rejected base claim and are allowable as they currently stand.

Second, the Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 21 to incorporate some or all of the elements of Claims 2 and 22, respectively. Based on these amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 21 (and their dependent claims) are patentable.

Third, the Applicant has amended Claim 27 to stand in independent form. As a result,

Claims 27-30 are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all claim rejections and full allowance of Claims 1-10, 21, and 23-30.

**II. CONCLUSION**

The Applicant respectfully asserts that all pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests full allowance of the claims.

**SUMMARY**

If any issue arises, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *wmunck@munckbutrus.com*.

The Applicant has included the appropriate fee to cover the cost of this AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication (including any extension of time fees) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

MUNCK BUTRUS, P.C.

Date: Aug 21, 2004



William A. Munck  
Registration No. 39,308

P.O. Drawer 800889  
Dallas, Texas 75380  
Phone: (972) 628-3600  
Fax: (972) 628-3616  
E-mail: *wmunck@munckbutrus.com*